

Library Background Issues, December-2004

Cuts:

Journal Cuts:

Online journals cut by approximately 2/3rds. Previous funding: \$820,000. Revised funding level: \$340,000. which includes journals and all citation databases and search engines. All print journals cut/eliminated. Backfiles for eliminated journals will not be available online; thus, the Library loses not only the subscriptions going forward but many years of journals that exist only online.

Staffing Cuts:

1 .5 Senior Librarians cut, this reflects a 36% cut in staffing.

Service Cuts:

Increased turnaround time for interlibrary loans, delays in responding to requests.

Elimination of journal photocopying for scientists.

Decrease in reference desk help for patrons using physical library, currently averaging 649 visitors a month. Possible future implementation of recharges for interlibrary loans, above pass-through cost of actual loan pass-through charges.

Some scientists will go unserved due to lengthy delays.

Impacts:

As a result of these cuts, over 2,025 scientists/researchers will not have access to research materials previously available at the Lab.

Important journals no longer available in either the current issue or backfiles.

Increase in interlibrary loans as a result of journals not being available online or onsite.

Elimination of some services.

Charges for some services previously provided free.

Relevant Facts:

No formal relationship with UCB for borrowing reference materials, currently LBNL librarian borrows reference materials on their own personal library card. Lost books are her liability. Reimbursements are onerous and contentious as scientists do not want to personally pay for books they've lost. Processing such issues is time consuming and delays are normal. An auditable financial practice needs to be established and followed for these transactions.

No UCB proxy access by majority of scientists at the Lab. To access journals online from the computer, a CalNet Id is required and cannot be obtained based on LBNL staff scientist or tech staff status. This is not widely understood by most people. LBNL- UCB (or other UC system) joint appointments, currently 196 scientists, will have access to UCB assets online using their CalNet logon - proxy access. These logons and passwords cannot legally be shared with others. The Lab is subject to audit by DOE and the journals on this issue.

Choices for those left out of the UCB system will result in increase **in time consuming manual research by scientists and/or post-docs**, including physical visits to campus libraries and physical copying of materials. Although UCB Library cards are available at no cost to LBNL staff and the card-holder can access journals from in-library terminals on campus, the card-holder cannot access journals by remote proxies (e.g., in their LBNL office). In addition, reference materials (including journals) cannot be checked out by the card-holder.

Less buying power through CDL. UCB negotiates with journal publishers in the same consortium CDL (California Digital Library) as LBNL. LBNL obtains packages based on our specific scientific disciplines. UCB negotiates a far wider spectrum of journals. To add LBNL to the UCB negotiations would most likely result in added costs, over what we now pay, as we would be 'buying into' packages they currently procure, for which we have no interest, such as social and political sciences, psychology, humanities, art history, history, rhetoric, etc.

There is currently **no formal or informal agreement with UCOP or UCB for partnering on journal acquisitions and licensing**, outside of consortium buying/brokering with CDL for which we currently pay an annual fee of \$40,000. There will be a direct cost to accessing the journals through UCB. The issue is whether the full cost will be passed on to LBNL or whether UCOP or UCB will cover some of this cost. Considering current guidance on administrative costs of managing the Lab, most likely, these costs would be returned to LBNL in some form or another. At this point, there have been no discussions or agreements entered into with UCOP/UCB.

It is estimated that **negotiations with journals and UC-system on acquiring access through UC could take as long as six months to perhaps a year**. Most journals have subscription periods based on calendar year, and contracts are negotiated months in advance. Only some journals are willing to prorate subscription periods, so costs would not substantially be limited to remaining months of a funding year, or calendar year, once an agreement with UC and the journals is reached to acquire the journals in partnership.

Research continuity will be affected as scientists struggle to understand new limitations on access and how to work around these to continue to perform routine research. Scientists will determine if some journals they need must be acquired and paid for directly with programmatic funds, increasing overall costs in comparison with negotiated packages secured through California Digital Library. Over time, existing scientists may elect other institutions which provide a greater level of support for research materials over those eroded at LBNL and new programs will weigh costs of directly providing these costs.